PT 2 of 3 SCS

[redacted] E BL

498

EXCISE

February 18, 1978

Congressman Timothy Wirth
#312 CHOB
and
Congressman George Miller
#1531 LHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 2-26-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Dear Gentlemen:

As a rank and file trade unionist in San Francisco and other cities for many years, I am very well acquainted with Rev. Jim Jones and his activist church, Peoples Temple. That this church, over a span of two decades, has successfully reached thousands of troubled youth as well as disenfranchised and needy senior citizens, can only be attributed to the man's deep commitment to justice and an egalitarian society. His efforts have resulted in a highly acclaimed agricultural project in Guyana, South America, where hundreds of once incorrigible youth from the inner cities of the United States are now living productive lives, growing and harvesting food for hungry people -- of whom there are so many in that part of the world.

Despite the visits of international delegations from many Third World and other developing nations, from top officials in the United States Department of State, all of whom have left the project highly impressed, there have been some unfortunate attempts on the part of certain detractors to try to interfere with the progress there.

Namely, a Mr. Timothy Stoen, has been trying to swing the opinion of the courts in Guyana to his side of a custody case that is being tried there now. To do this, he has evidently encouraged members of Congress and the State Department of our country to take an adversary role in the issue. If this is the case, I am disappointed with our governmental officials. Recognizing that Guyana is an independent and sovereign nation, and has a legitimate complaint if the United States intrudes in matters that are the country's own internal affairs, I urge you not to endorse any sort of pressure that Mr. Stoen is trying to bring to bear on the Guyanese government or courts.

Thank you. I remain sincerely yours,

[redacted]

E BL

E BL

cc: Mr. Frank Tumminia
Pres. Carter